

DETAILED INFORMATION OF NEW ISSUES

by JOE FARRUGIA

XXI Olympiad Issue

Date of issue	28th. April 1976.
Values	1c7, 5c and 30c.
Stamp Size	38m.m. x 20 m.m. (all values).
Art Designer	Harry Alden.
Printers	Printex Limited Malta.
Process.....	Lithography.
Perforation	13.5 x 13.9 (comb).
Watermark	Maltese Crosses pointing upwards.
Paper	Chalked surfaced.
Gum	P.V.A.

Colours:—

1c7 Green, Red and Black.

5c Blue, Red and Black.

30c Brown, Red and Black.

Designs:—

The stamps feature three of the most popular sports in Malta. As background each stamp includes bastions built hundreds of years ago to form part of Malta's system of fortifications. The three stamps depict "Waterpolo" 1c7, "Sailing" 5c, and "Athletics" 30c.

Colour checks, as usual, are in the form of coloured discs 3m.m. in diameter. These are seen in the right hand margin, next to the last stamp of the bottom row. The colours of these discs from top to bottom, correspond to the colours used for Pane numbers from right to left on all Panes of all values. Cumulative totals of progressive columns of stamps are seen in the top and bottom margins. Figures are 2.5m.m. and printed in black.

The Printed Sheet of each value consists of four Panes. Each Pane has fifty stamps made up of five rows of ten stamps. All stamps are of the horizontal format.

Plate/Pane Numbers:—

These are seen under the first stamp of the bottom row.

1c7 = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

5c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

30c = 1A x 4, 1B x 4, 1C x 4, 1D x 4.

Perforation of Margins:—

The top, bottom and left hand margins of all Panes, of all values are fully perforated. The right hand margins of all Panes, of all values are imperforated. The right hand margins of all Panes are wider when compared to the left hand margins, whilst the bottom margins are wider when compared to

the top margins. Registration marks in the form of coloured horizontal lines could be seen only in Panes "B" of each value. They are at the bottom of the right hand margin under the colour checks, and their lengths vary between 6m.m. and 10m.m. Colours red and black can easily be distinguished in the 1c7 and 30c values, but in the 5c value the black line nearly covers completely the red line. These horizontal lines are surrounded by other very faint coloured lines forming a sort of rectangle extending from the bottom of the right hand margin of Pane "B" of each value, to the top of the right hand margin of Pane "C" of each value. I think these faint lines are a very good hint as to how the Printed Sheet looked like before cutting. One other thing noticed in this set, which has never occurred with any other set printed by Printex Ltd. is, that the colour checks are seen in all Panes of all values on an imperforated margin. From a study of all details, I would say, that the Printed Sheet was such, that the stamps were printed sideways resting on their 20m.m. side, Pane "A" being on the left followed by Panes "B", "C" and "D". If after printing and before cutting, the Printed Sheet were to be turned ninety degrees to the right, the stamps would look the right way up, with Pane "A" at the top and Pane "D" at the bottom.

Imprint Blocks:—

"PRINTEX LIMITED" can be seen under the last stamp of the bottom row. Letters are 1m.m. high and printed in black. An Imprint Block of four will also include the colour checks and if it is from Pane "B" of any value, it will also include the horizontal lines mentioned earlier. A special handstamp was used for cancellation on the first day of issue. Up to 4 p.m. sales amounted to £M52,662.